

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a template for a printer, comprising:
 - providing template attributes to memory of the printer;
 - creating a template from the template attributes;
 - providing print data to the printer memory;
 - merging the print data into the template to create a composite image; and
 - printing the composite image on a substrate.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - said printer comprises a ticket printer; and
 - said substrate comprises a ticket.
3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - one or more configurable templates are stored at the printer; and
 - the step of creating the template from the template attributes comprises modifying one of said configurable templates in accordance with said template attributes.
4. A method in accordance with claim 3, further comprising:
 - providing a command to the printer for identifying one of said configurable templates to be modified by said template attributes.
5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein:
 - said command comprises an otherwise unused printer command.
6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 - the template attributes are provided by a host system associated with the printer.
7. A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

the template attributes are input via a user interface associated with the host system.

8. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the template attributes are provided from a removable memory device insertable into the printer.

9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein:

the removable memory device comprises one of a compact flash card, a smart card, a smart media card, a USB flash drive, a memory stick, or a plug in serial EEPROM.

10. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the template attributes comprise at least one of number of print fields, print field position, print field area, print position, font style, bold font, italic font, underline text, font size, characters per inch, text orientation, image position, image size, print resolution, barcode type, and color.

11. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said template contains a number of print fields.

12. A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein:

the number of print fields is configurable.

13. A method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising:

providing template attributes for each print field.

14. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the print data comprises at least one of text and graphics.

15. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the print data is forwarded from a host system associated with the printer.

16. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the host system comprises one of a cash register, a point of sale terminal, a slot machine, a gaming terminal, a lottery ticket machine, a transportation ticket vending machine, or an entertainment ticket vending machine.

17. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the substrate comprises one of a receipt, a lottery ticket, a coupon, a bus ticket, an airplane ticket, a train ticket, a gaming voucher, or a slot machine voucher.

18. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said template attributes include delimiting characters for separating print field data.

19. A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein:

said delimiting characters are configurable.

20. A printer having a configurable template, comprising:

memory for storing received template attributes and received print data;
a processor for creating a template from the template attributes and merging the print data into the template to create a composite image; and
printing means for printing the composite image on a substrate.

21. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

said printer comprises a ticket printer; and
said substrate comprises a ticket.

22. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

said memory stores one or more configurable templates; and

the processor creates the template from the template attributes by modifying one of said configurable templates in accordance with said template attributes.

23. A printer in accordance with claim 22, wherein:

a host system associated with the printer provides a command to the printer for identifying one of said configurable templates to be modified by said template attributes.

24. A printer in accordance with claim 23, wherein:

said command comprises an otherwise unused printer command.

25. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the template attributes are provided by a host system associated with the printer.

26. A printer in accordance with claim 25, wherein:

the template attributes are input via a user interface associated with the host system.

27. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the template attributes are provided from a removable memory device insertable into the printer.

28. A printer in accordance with claim 27, wherein:

the removable memory device comprises one of a compact flash card, a smart card, a smart media card, a USB flash drive, a memory stick, or a plug in serial EEPROM.

29. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

the template attributes comprise at least one of number of print fields, print field area, print position, font style, bold font, italic font, underline text, font size, characters per inch, text orientation, image position, image size, print resolution, barcode type, and color.

30. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
said template contains a number of print fields.
31. A printer in accordance with claim 30, wherein:
the number of print fields is configurable.
32. A printer in accordance with claim 30, wherein:
template attributes are provided for each print field.
33. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
the print data comprises at least one of text and graphics.
34. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
the print data is forwarded from a host system associated with the printer.
35. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
the host system comprises one of a cash register, a point of sale terminal, a slot machine, a gaming terminal, a lottery ticket machine, a transportation ticket vending machine, or an entertainment ticket vending machine.
36. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
the substrate comprises one of a receipt, a lottery ticket, a coupon, a bus ticket, an airplane ticket, a train ticket, a gaming voucher, or a slot machine voucher.
37. A printer in accordance with claim 20, wherein:
said template attributes include delimiting characters for separating print field data.
38. A printer in accordance with claim 37, wherein:
said delimiting characters are configurable.